

‘Bulldog Brigade’ trains Iraq’s new soldiers

By Spc. John S. Wollaston,
3BCT PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – At Camp Cook, the former Iraqi military installation in Taji just north of Baghdad, a small contingent of U.S. and Australian soldiers are teaching a new Iraqi army the tactics and skills necessary to defend their country.

A six-Soldier team from Task Force 1st Armored Division’s 3rd brigade Combat Team, working with their coalition partners are training, advising and mentoring about 120 Iraqi Army soldiers.



The soldiers of the new Iraqi Army are a mix of old veterans and new recruits. Carefully screened soldiers who had served in the former Iraqi army are joining ranks with new recruits with one goal in mind: to make Iraq safe for their fellow citizens.

“There’s a lot of pride in the soldiers,” said Capt. Johnny Casiano, one of the 3rd Brigade trainers. “They (the new Iraqi Army) have the potential to be a powerful force.”

Using the U.S. Army’s crawl, walk, run instructional doctrine to train the Iraqis, Casiano and his team started with the basics, concentrating on squad and platoon-level tasks.

So far, the soldiers being trained by Casiano’s team have participated in eight combined U.S.-Iraqi operations in the Taji area.

“At the beginning, it was tense working with the Iraqis,” said Sgt. 1st Class Dan Smith, 123rd Main Support Battalion. “But now they’re happy we are here. It feels real good working with them.”

Several of the Iraqi Army soldiers echoed similar sentiments.

“At first we had a very different impression of the U.S. Army,” said an Iraqi major. “Now we realize they (the U.S. Soldiers) are good people who want to help us and they came to liberate us.”

“There is mutual respect between all soldiers and they’ve been very good at assisting us with our training,” the officer said.

And at a time when it is still dangerous for Iraqis to be seen openly working alongside coalition forces, the Iraqi soldiers are more than anxious and ready to serve their country, Casiano said.

A recent terrorist attack in Baghdad is an example of how willing the Iraqi soldiers are to serve their fellow citizens, he said.

“They wanted to go down there (to the attack site) and help,” Casiano said. “They had no orders to do so but they were willing to go down there and help.”

The Old Ironsides Report March 19, 2004

NEWS...

Spanish Police Arrest 5th Bombing Suspect

MADRID, Spain (AP) - Spanish police arrested a fifth suspect Thursday in the Madrid terror bombings, bringing the total number of suspects in custody to 11, court officials said. The national news agency Efe said the person was of North African origin.

Poland 'Misled' on Iraq, President Says

WARSAW, Poland (AP) - Poland, which has about 2,400 troops in Iraq, was "misled" about the threat from Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, its president said Thursday. The remarks by President Aleksander Kwasniewski were his first hint of such criticism directed at the United States and Britain, although he mentioned no country by name.

Jobless Claims Lowest Since January 2001

WASHINGTON (AP) - The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits dropped for the third consecutive week last week, pushing jobless claims to the lowest level in more than three years. The Labor Department reported Thursday that the number of laid-off workers seeking jobless benefits fell by 6,000 last week to 336,000, a level that was last seen the week of Jan. 13, 2001, just before Bill Clinton relinquished the White House to George W. Bush.

Scalia Won't Remove Self From Cheney Case

WASHINGTON (AP) - A defiant Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia refused Thursday to remove himself from a case involving his good friend, Vice President Dick Cheney, dismissing suggestions of a conflict of interest. In an unusual 21-page memorandum, he rejected a request by the Sierra Club. The environmental group said it was improper for Scalia to take a hunting trip with Cheney while the court was considering whether the White House must release information about private meetings of Cheney's energy task force.

Thought for the day...

"Purpose"

In his late eighties Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was earnestly reading on a train when the conductor asked for his ticket. Frantically Holmes searched for it.

"Never mind, Mr. Justice," stated the conductor, "When you find it, mail it to the company."

"I know I have it," exploded Holmes, "But what I want to know is where in the world I am supposed to be going."

It is our sense of individual purpose that transforms our trip on the 'train of life' from a simple joy ride into an enriching journey.

In other news...

Courtney Love Arrested at NYC Nightspot

NEW YORK (AP) -- A few hours after a loopy "Late Show" appearance in which she lifted her shirt to expose her breasts at least six times, rocker Courtney Love was arrested early Thursday for allegedly throwing a microphone stand and striking a man in the head.

The 24-year-old man was taken to a hospital in stable condition, police said. Police said they were charging Love with reckless endangerment and third-degree assault after the 2:30 a.m. incident at a posh Manhattan nightclub.

Messages left for representatives of Love early Thursday weren't immediately returned.

Love, who is facing felony drug charges in California, repeatedly lifted her olive shirt several times on David Letterman's CBS talk show.

Her back was facing the camera when she exposed herself while making an entrance. She then stood atop Letterman's desk, sang a few bars of "Danny Boy," and offered the host an up-close viewing. The video was altered so a profile of her breasts could not be seen.

She alluded to actress Drew Barrymore, who similarly exposed herself to the talk-show host.

"Very sweet of you," Letterman said. "We're going to lose our liquor license."

Love sat down on Letterman's couch, gestured to her chest and said, "FCC!"

Of the Federal Communication Commission's recent crackdown on lewd content on television and radio, Love said, "Is this like Reagan trickle-down economics? Is this like Bush trickle down?"

Love, the former lead singer of the group Hole, was arrested in October after allegedly trying to break into the Los Angeles home of a former boyfriend. Police later called to her home allegedly found painkillers when Love was taken to a treatment center for a drug overdose.

Love has been charged with two felony counts of possession of controlled substances. She also faces misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

A preliminary hearing in the felony case has been postponed to April 15. She showed up two hours late Tuesday for a court hearing and was scolded by the judge after talking out of turn in court.

During his show, Letterman asked Love whether she could talk about the court case. "Yeah, I'm not supposed to," she said.

When Letterman later asked if drugs were involved, Love said, "One expired Percocet and one Ambien."

Love later lit up a cigarette - defying New York City's strict anti-smoking laws - and asked Letterman, "Are you going to cut this because I'm smoking?"

"That won't be the reason we cut anything," he replied.

Letterman looked profoundly uncomfortable with Love's scatterbrained performance, but he did get the last word. He was looking to cut to a commercial, but Love insisted he ask her one more question.

"How much do you weigh?" Letterman said.

Love looked shocked. She didn't answer.

Today in History...

March 18, 1949: East Germany approves new constitution

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) In a precursor to the establishment of a separate, Soviet-dominated East Germany, the People's Council of the Soviet Zone of Occupation approves a new constitution. This action, together with the U.S. policy of pursuing an independent pathway in regards to West Germany, contributed to the permanent division of Germany.

The postwar status of Germany had become a bone of contention between the United States and the Soviet Union even before World War II ended. The Soviet Union wanted assurances that Germany would be permanently disarmed and demanded huge reparations from the postwar German government. The United States, however, was hesitant to commit to these demands.

By 1945, many U.S. officials began to see the Soviet Union as a potential adversary in the postwar world and viewed a reunified-and pro-West-Germany as valuable to the defense of Europe. When the war ended in May 1945, Russian forces occupied a large portion of Germany, including Berlin. Negotiations between the United States, Russia, Britain, and France resulted in the establishment of occupation zones for each nation. Berlin was also divided in zones of occupation. While both the United States and Russia publicly called for a reunified Germany, both nations were coming to the conclusion that a permanently divided Germany might be advantageous.

For the United States, West Germany, with its powerful economy and potential military strength, would make for a crucial ally in the developing Cold War. The Soviets came to much the same conclusion in regards to East Germany. When, in 1949, the United States proposed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (a military and political alliance between America and several European states) and began to discuss the possible inclusion of a remilitarized West Germany in NATO, the Soviets reacted quickly.

The new constitution for East Germany, approved by the People's Council of the Soviet Zone of Occupation (a puppet legislative body dominated by the Soviets), made clear that the Russians were going to establish a separate and independent East Germany.

In October 1949, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) was declared. Months earlier, in May, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) had been formally proclaimed. Germany remained a divided nation until the collapse of the communist government in East Germany and reunification in 1990.

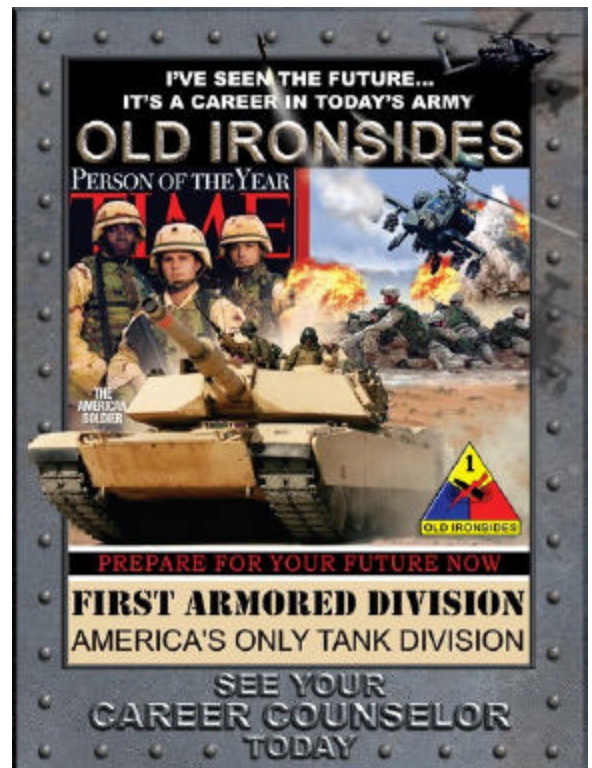
RC benefits briefings

Reserve Component Soldiers are invited to attend a weekly USAR/AGR benefits briefing with Sgt. 1st Class Goodley, USAR from the 1st Cavalry Division.

The briefing takes place Fridays at the Soldier's Support Center on BIAP at 10 a.m.

All Reserve Component soldiers or Active Army Soldiers interested in what the USAR has to offer are invited.

This briefing is a joint effort between the outgoing 1st Armored Division Command Career Counselor, Sgt. Maj. Jaranowski and the incoming 1st Cavalry Division Command Career Counselor, Sgt. Maj. Henry, as a service to all of our forces in theater.



The Old Ironsides Report

March 19, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2004				As of: Thursday, March 18, 2004 9:24:59 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00		HEADLINE NEWS	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SPECIALS (TVPG): - HOLY WAR, INC			00:00
00:30		TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):			ARMY NEWSWATCH	00:30
01:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: STANFORD VS TEXAS SAN ANTONIO		MASTERPIECE THEATER (TVPG): - MY UNCLE SILAS II	TODAY	LESTER HOLT LIVE	01:00
01:30		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):				01:30
02:00				SESAME STREET	HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD			NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	02:30
03:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: DUKE VS ALABAMA STATE; SETON HALL VS ARIZONA	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: TEXAS VS PRINCETON; NORTH CAROLINA VS AIR FORCE	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - ENTER THE HAWK-TRIX/ STREET VS. VERT	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - MONTY'S ROAR/NATURAL ROOT PALS	ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT	03:00
03:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY	WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):	CBS EVENING NEWS	03:30
04:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MR. LISA GOES TO WASHINGTON	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	COUNTDOWN WITH KEITH OLBERMANN	04:00
04:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY			04:30
05:00			CHARMED (TVPG): - OH MY GODDESS (PT. 1)	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):	HANNITY & COLMES	05:00
06:00			BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER THREE	NBC NIGHTLY NEWS	THE NEWSHOUR	06:00
06:30				JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):		06:30
07:00			THE X-FILES (TV14): - DREAMLAND (PT. 2)	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	BET NIGHTLY NEWS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):		07:25
07:30					NIGHTLY BUSINESS REPORT	07:30
08:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	WALKING WITH DINOSAURS - A CRUEL SEA		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):		08:13
08:30	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	HEADLINE NEWS	WALKING WITH PREHISTORIC BEASTS (TVG): - LAND OF THE GIANTS			08:30
09:00	SPORTSCENTER	SESAME STREET	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD	HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - TIMON & PUMBAA	NEWSNIGHT WITH AARON BROWN	09:00
09:30				ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - RIVER RATS		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	LITTLE BILL (TVY7): - MONTY'S ROAR/NATURAL ROOT PALS	IRON CHEF (TVPG): - CODFISH/SAKAI VS SHIGEO YUASA	KIM POSSIBLE (TVY7): - RON THE MAN	PAULA ZAHN NOW	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE (TVG):		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TVY7): - SIBLING TSUNAMI(AKA: WAIT UNTIL YOUR MOTHER GETS HOME)/I WAS A PRESCHOOL DROPOUT		10:30
11:00	NBA - DETROIT PISTONS @ NEW JERSEY NETS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW (TVPG):	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - ENTER THE HAWK-TRIX/ STREET VS. VERT	JEOPARDY! (TVG):	NIGHTLINE	11:00
11:30			THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	11:30
11:46		THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW (TVPG):				11:46
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00			THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MR. LISA GOES TO WASHINGTON	ESPNEWS	HARDBALL WITH CHRIS MATTHEWS	12:00
12:30			THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY	HEADLINE NEWS		12:30
12:35		GUIDING LIGHT (TV14):				12:35
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			CHARMED (TVPG): - OH MY GODDESS (PT. 1)	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - 'TIS THE FIFTEENTH SEASON	THE O'REILLY FACTOR	13:00
13:17		GENERAL HOSPITAL (TV14):				13:17
13:30	NBA - MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES @ SAN ANTONIO SPURS			THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - YOU SHOOK ME		13:30
14:00		HEADLINE NEWS	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER THREE	SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	PRIMETIME	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY (TVPG):				14:30
15:00		TODAY	THE X-FILES (TV14): - DREAMLAND (PT. 2)	24 (TV14): - DAY 2: 6:00 A.M.- 7:00 A.M.	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
16:00	TENNIS - PACIFIC LIFE OPEN: MEN'S QUARTERFINALS		WALKING WITH DINOSAURS - A CRUEL SEA	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30			WALKING WITH PREHISTORIC BEASTS (TVG): - LAND OF THE GIANTS	TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO (TVPG):		16:30
17:00		HOUSE OF MOUSE (TVY): - TIMON & PUMBAA	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (TV14): - THE WEIGHT OF THE WORLD		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		ALL GROWN UP (TVY): - RIVER RATS		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN (TVPG):	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					ABC WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	TENNIS - PACIFIC LIFE OPEN: WOMEN'S QUARTERFINALS	KIM POSSIBLE (TVY7): - RON THE MAN	IRON CHEF (TVPG): - CODFISH/SAKAI VS SHIGEO YUASA		THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30		MY LIFE AS A TEENAGE ROBOT (TVY7): - SIBLING TSUNAMI(AKA: WAIT UNTIL YOUR MOTHER GETS HOME)/I WAS A PRESCHOOL DROPOUT		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00		JEOPARDY! (TVG):	ROCKET POWER (TVY): - ENTER THE HAWK-TRIX/ STREET VS. VERT	HEADLINE NEWS		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS (TVY): - CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY	ESPNEWS		19:30
20:00	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: MEMPHIS VS SOUTH CAROLINA; OKLAHOMA STATE VS EASTERN WASHINGTON		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - MR. LISA GOES TO WASHINGTON	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - FIRST ROUND: BOSTON COLLEGE VS UTAH; GEORGIA TECH VS NORTHERN IOWA	FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30		HEADLINE NEWS	THE COSBY SHOW (TVG): - GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY			20:30
21:00		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - 'TIS THE FIFTEENTH SEASON	CHARMED (TVPG): - OH MY GODDESS (PT. 1)		PRIMETIME	21:00
21:30		THAT 70'S SHOW (TVPG): - YOU SHOOK ME				21:30
22:00		SURVIVOR: ALL-STARS (TVPG):	BOSTON PUBLIC (TV14): - CHAPTER THREE		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00		24 (TV14): - DAY 2: 6:00 A.M.- 7:00 A.M.	THE X-FILES (TV14): - DREAMLAND (PT. 2)		HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30					INSIDE POLITICS	23:30